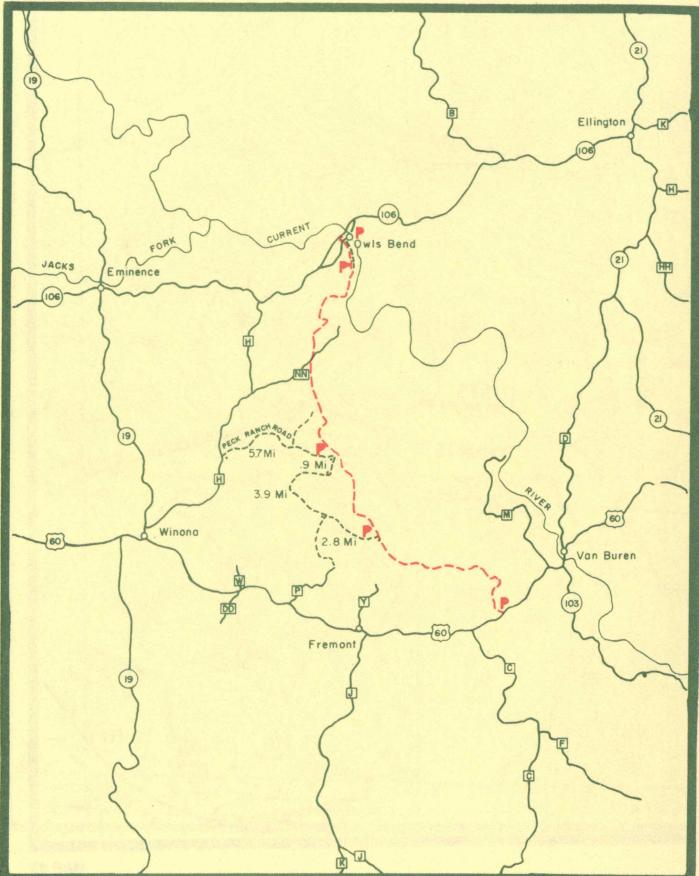
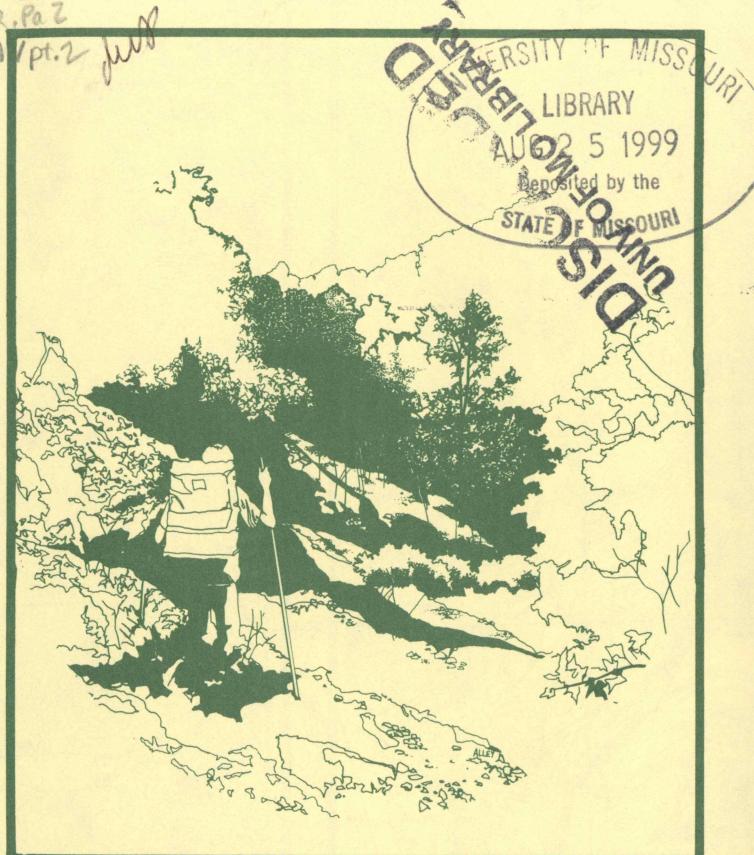


ACCESS MAP



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THE OZARK TRAIL
Current River Section

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Current River Section

The Current River Section of the Ozark Trail was one of the first trail sections to be developed as a result of the Ozark Trail concept. The trail crosses lands managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, and private landowners.

The Current River Section of the Ozark Trail covers approximately 30 miles. It was designed to accommodate *foot traffic only*; it is not open for equestrian use. This section's northern entry point is at Highway 106 in Shannon County and the exit is at Highway 60 in Carter County. Trailhead parking is provided for users at Owls Bend, at a Missouri Department of Conservation area approximately two miles south of Owls Bend on the west side of the river, on Peck Ranch Road, and Highway 60. Improved campsites are available in the National Park Service use area at Owls Bend.

This trail begins by crossing to the west bank of the Current River on the Highway 106 bridge. It then heads south, generally paralleling the river for approximately two miles. From that point it proceeds up Indian Creek, crosses a saddle on the south end of Barnett Mountain, and descends to Rocky Creek. The trail passes a beautiful shut-ins area between Buzzard Mountain and Mill Mountain before heading for Stegall Mountain. Glades atop Stegall Mountain allow expansive and unrestricted views of the Ozark landscape. From Stegall Mountain the trail heads southeast through Peck Ranch Wildlife Area toward Highway 60.

The Ozark Trail provides a recreational opportunity that can be enjoyed by individuals or families. It can be used for long-distance backpacking, half-hour strolls, day hikes, and weekend trips. It combines clear Ozark streams with dry granite barrens and panoramic mountaintop views with deep forests that filter the summer sun. The Ozark Trail represents the quest of those who backpack not to go the fastest or the furthest, but who go to share the experiences of the first who crossed the land.

There are steps you can take to ensure your safety and to preserve the Ozark Trail for those who follow:

- Camp at least 100 feet from the trail, water, and scenic areas. Leave your campsite so no one will know you were there.
- Treat all water used for drinking or cooking.

- Use a backpacking stove for cooking and build a fire only if necessary. Do not build fires on edges of bluffs, on glades, or in caves. If a fire is necessary, clear the area of combustible material and make sure you drown the fire before leaving. Do not encircle the fire with rocks.
- Bury all human waste at least 100 feet from the trail and water. Pack out everything else you packed in.
- Use caution when crossing streams. At times stream crossings are impossible to negotiate.
- Enjoy plants in their natural setting. Do not collect plants.
- Be considerate of others; respect the rights of private landowners and remember that solitude is also a resource to be protected.

The official Ozark Trail marker is a green  on a white rectangle. A white paint blaze also is used and, in addition, supplemental markers may be used by each agency or landowner. Two tilted markers placed one above the other warn of an abrupt turn in the trail in the direction of tilt. Be alert, and always carry a map and compass.

The development of the Ozark Trail is an ambitious project that has been undertaken by the members of the Ozark Trail Council, which includes state and federal land-managing agencies, trail user groups, and landowners. The trail is envisioned someday to extend from St. Louis through the scenic Ozarks to the Arkansas border, where it will connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail and proceed west to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. If you would like to learn more about the Ozark Trail or if you have comments concerning the trail, write the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The Ozark Trail Council has officially adopted the Current River Section as a component of the Ozark Trail and has approved the information contained in this brochure.

